

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF H.R. 400

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I received a call from a man who identified himself as a frustrated small inventor. He then proceeded to give me a tongue-lashing about the patent bill, H.R. 400, claiming that it would put the little guy out of business.

I asked him what was his source of information. He referred to a talk show featuring a Congressman who said that. I asked the caller if he had read the bill. No. I asked him if he wanted to read the bill. Yes. I mailed a copy of the bill to him, and then about 10 days later he called me and apologized. He said, this is a good bill, not at all like I was told on the talk radio show.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, a woman came to me, a Member of this body who was scheduled to speak on behalf of the bill later this week. She said, I cannot do it. I said, why? Because I have received mail that says H.R. 400 is bad for the little guy. I said, were there any details spelled out? No, she said.

This is how she bases her opinion. This is how the caller based his opinion. Scare tactics are very effective. Scare tactics make a formidable opponent.

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

(Mr. PEASE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, April 15 is the day notorious among Americans. We dread the tax deadline, despair over the amount of money we turn over to the Government and wonder how much benefit it will reap. Many citizens assume that, once they pay their taxes, the Government will take care of everything. History has proven this untrue.

What history proves is that this Nation is great because of a tradition of neighbor helping anybody or and community and faith-based institutions assisting others when they need help. This tradition allows people to take responsibility for themselves and their neighbors rather than abdicating this responsibility to the government.

I join the hundreds of thousands of others today in celebrating National Youth Service Day and the 10th anniversary of Youth as Resources. Gathering today in Indiana is a group of unique young people. The Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth has gathered teenagers from all walks of life and all ages, from the poorest to the wealthiest, who actively participate in community service and allows them to exchange ideas and discuss models for improving the quality of life in their own neighborhoods.

One such partnership is in my district, at the Wabash Valley Community Foundation in Terre Haute, IN. The Youth Grant Committee involves young people in evaluating projects for awards to other young people and in the process allows them to take responsibility for their future.

INVITATION TO CONFERENCE ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important event being held in Washington this week and to invite all my colleagues to attend. The United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the University of Texas at El Paso are sponsoring a conference this week in Washington about issues that are important along the United States-Mexico border.

The border between our countries is almost 2,000 miles long. We have a common border, and we have common challenges to meet.

This conference will be held Wednesday and Thursday. It will address such issues as the economics of the border, environmental concerns of the border, transportation and infrastructure needs of the border, cultural aspects of the border and a status report on the impact of NAFTA on the United States-Mexico border.

I invite all my colleagues to a congressional reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16 in B-369 Rayburn. I also invite all my colleagues to attend all the conference or parts of the conference. I also ask my colleagues to look for my Dear Colleague letter this afternoon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my right hand a copy of the Constitution of the United States of America. When this document was ratified by the Original Thirteen Colonies in 1787, in article I, section 9, I want to read the following sentence: No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

What that meant was there could be no income tax in the original Constitution, but on February 3, 1913, the 16th amendment was passed to the Constitution that overrode that sentence that I just read. The 16th amendment says: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States.

We need to pass the two-thirds tax limitation constitutional amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives this afternoon to put back into the Constitution not an absolute prohibition against leveling income taxes but at least a supermajority requirement that will take two-thirds of the House and the Senate before we raise taxes.

TAX BURDEN ON SENIORS MUST BE LIFTED

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day. I think most of us would agree that we are taxed too much. But do we really need to tax seniors like we do? I do not think so.

Sadly, that is precisely what happened with the Clinton 1993 budget package. Some might try to argue that that was a good package. They were wrong. They are still wrong. These folks in the administration have long pursued a tax and spend policy. Try telling seniors that their taxes on Social Security are fair and necessary.

I have introduced legislation to roll back this additional tax burden that was placed on seniors by the Clinton administration in 1993. It also includes indexation of capital gains and American dream savings accounts for young people who are trying to purchase their first home. I urge my colleagues who believe in tax relief, true tax relief for all Americans, to sponsor my bill which is budget neutral. It is H.R. 1266. It is entitled the Budget Neutral American Tax Relief Act.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 4 p.m. today.

TAXPAYER BROWSING PROTECTION ACT

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1226) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information, as amended.